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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAME/INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,893	11/16/2001	Hiromitsu Sugimoto	57454-279	7560

7590 04/08/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TUNG X

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2829

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,893

Applicant(s)

SUGIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Tung X Nguyen

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 2-4, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Root (u.s.p 6,201,402).

As to claims 2, 7, Root discloses in Fig. 1a-d, a substrate testing apparatus comprising: a first rail group (first two of 109 from the bottom) made of a plurality of rails disposed in parallel with each other; a second rail group (first two of 111 from the left) made of a plurality of rails disposed in parallel with each other in a direction that crosses said first rail group (Col. 6, lines 8-10); a plurality of probe units (125) disposed to cover respective intersections of the rails and being movable along the rails, wherein said plurality of probe units each comprise a probing needle to be brought into contact with a surface of the substrate (Col. 5, lines 17-23); and corresponding interval maintaining means (107, 108) for keeping each probe unit corresponding to an arrange of locations to be measured on a substrate (Col. 2, lines 55-68, Col. 3, line 1).

As to claim 3, Root discloses in Fig. 1a-d, the substrate testing apparatus, wherein said corresponding interval maintaining means (107, 108) maintains the interval after changing the interval every time the arrangement of the locations to be measured changes.

As to claim 4, Root discloses in Fig. 1a-d, the substrate testing apparatus, wherein said corresponding interval maintaining means (107, 108) comprises equal interval maintaining means (via 119, 121) for keeping each rail included in said first rail group at an equal interval.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5, 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claims 5, 6 the prior art does not teach or suggest the substrate testing apparatus further comprising: temperature measuring means for measuring a temperature; and temperature measurement value feedback means for setting the interval of each, in accordance With a temperature measurement value given by said temperature measuring means; and displacement measuring means for measuring a displacement of one or more observation points on the substrate subjected to measurement; in combination with the other claimed features.

The art of record does not disclose the above limitations, nor would it be obvious to modify the art of record so as to include the above limitations.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 2/25/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re pages 3-4, applicant argues that Root (u.s.p 6,201,402) is **not capable of concurrently moving** or adjusting a plurality of probing unit along the rails.

In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Root discloses in column 1, lines 49-62, a plurality of probe unit are configured in a flat by the matrix, and are held in place by a probing platform, and each probe unit **may be moved** independently in an X and Y directions. It appears that the plurality of probe unit will be moved concurrently in X and Y directions, alternatively each probe unit may be moved independently.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any


extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung X Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3337. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (703)-308-1233. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-5841 for regular communications and (703) 308-5841 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

TN
April 3, 2003


KAMAND CUNEO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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